REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 2, 1999, the Office rejected claims 1-7. This Reply amends claims 1, 3, and 5 and adds new claims 8-10. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-10 (3 independent claims, 10 total claims) remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "applicant's admitted prior art" in view of *Chang* (U.S. patent 5,298,919, issued March 29, 1994). The Office states that "applicant's admitted prior art" fails to teach of a rotary knob mounted on a cursor control housing, within finger reach of a wrist rest. The Office further asserts that *Chang* teaches a cursor control housing (10) comprising a hand rest portion, a cursor control device (32) forward of said hand rest portion and within finger reach, and a rotary knob (26) on said housing, said knob generating rotary signals indicative of rotation of said knob. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

While the Office asserts that *Chang* contains a hand rest portion, Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant asserts that the "cursor control housing" of *Chang* is merely the body of a mouse-type input device. Column 4, lines 13-15 describe element (10) as "a handpiece which may be readily grasped by a user and moved about on a work surface on which the device rests, as with a conventional mouse." In addition, Applicant disputes the characterization of element 26 as a rotary knob. Element 26 is described as being a thumbwheel protruding from the side (col. 4, lines 55-56) and as being oriented in a vertical plane to provide "an intuitive manner of entering the z coordinate." (col. 6, lines 1-14). Therefore, the thumbwheel (26) of *Chang* is merely a portion of a wheel that can be moved via movements of the thumb.

Therefore, *Chang* merely discloses a mouse that has been modified by the addition of a trackball and a thumbwheel. MPEP § 2143 requires the reference to contain such a suggestion or motivation to combine the references in order for a finding of obviousness to be valid. One skilled in the art would have no teaching, suggestion, motivation, or desire to combine the "admitted prior art" with the mouse of *Chang*. Certainly, no such teaching or suggestion is present in either *Chang* or in the present application.

To further clarify the difference between the present invention and *Chang*, claims 1, 3, and 5 have been amended to recite a cursor control ***console***. Such a console is not present in *Chang*, which merely discloses an improvement to a mouse. Thus, one skilled in the art would have no suggestion or motivation to look to *Chang* or combine *Chang* with the "admitted prior art".

The Office rejected claim 7 as being unpatentable over "Applicant's admitted prior art" in view of *Chang* and further in view of *Charwat* (DE 3 624 025). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

With respect to claim 7, applicant asserts that *Chang* in view of "Applicant's admitted prior art" does not disclose claim 7, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1-6. In addition, the Office asserts that *Charwat* discloses the manipulation "of display input values or parameters with a cursor control device and incrementing and decrementing said parameters with a rotary knob." However, *Charwat* discloses an invention that replaces panel switches and selectors with soft keys on a screen. There is no teaching, suggestion, motivation, or desire to combine *Charwat* with *Chang* or the "admitted prior art" because one skilled in the art would have no motivation to look to a video display unit system, such as that described in *Charwat*, with a mouse, such as that disclosed in *Chang*.

The system disclosed in the present application solves various problems. As disclosed at page 2, lines 19-30, it was difficult, using prior art systems, to enter various pieces of data because of the multitude of knobs and keypads. The present invention allows one to select and enter data in a much easier manner, obviating the need for separate keypads, such as a Multifunction Control Display Unit ("MCDU"), to enter data. As such, the present invention results in a great savings to vehicle manufacturers, who no longer need to include a separate MCDU to enter alphanumeric data.

Applicant has also added new claims 8-10 to describe a select button and the activation of a select button. Support for these amendments can be found, *inter alia*, at page 6, lines 4-9 of the specification as filed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail or to otherwise expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been amended as follows:

1. (AMENDED) An input device for an aircraft computer system comprising:

a) a cursor control ~~housing~~ console including,

1) a wrist rest portion;

b) a cursor control device mounted on said ~~housing~~ console forward of said wrist rest portion and within finger reach of said wrist rest, said device generating cursor control signals representative of said device; and,

c) a rotary knob mounted on said ~~housing~~ console and within finger reach of said wrist rest, said knob generating rotary signals indicative of rotation of said knob.

3. (AMENDED) The input device according to claim 1 wherein said rotary knob extends axially from said ~~housing~~ console.

5. (AMENDED) An input device for a vehicle computer system comprising:

a) a cursor control ~~housing~~ console including,

1) wrist rest means for supporting the wrist/hand of an operator;

b) cursor control means, mounted on said ~~housing~~ console within finger reach of said rest means, for generating cursor control signals indicative of X-Y actuations of said cursor control means; and,

c) rotary input means mounted on said ~~housing~~ console and within finger reach of said rest means, said knob generating rotary signals indicative of rotation of said rotary input means.

Claims 8-10 have been added as follows:

8. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

d) a select button mounted on said console, said select button generating signals indicative of an activation of the select button.

9. (NEW) The method of claim 7 wherein said control console further comprises:

4) a select button mounted on said console, said select button generating signals indicative of an activation of the select button.

10. (NEW) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

d) depressing said select button to indicate an acceptance of said selected desired value.